

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2869
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
INDIA AS DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRY
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether America has included India in their list of major drug/smack producing countries; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

- (a) Yes Sir. India is amongst the major drug producing and/or drug transit countries as listed by USA. India is the sole licit producer of opium gum in the world which is used for supply to the international market for production of pharmaceuticals.
- (b) The foreign assistance Act, 1961 of the USA requires a certification by the US President every year in respect of each country identified as major drug producing countries/major drug transit countries. India has always been certified by the US President because of its effectiveness of its efforts to counter drug trafficking and regulate cultivation.